

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q76031

Hidetsugu SHIMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: Unknown

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: July 18, 2003

Examiner: Unknown

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Please enter the following amended claims:**

20.(AMENDED) The image forming apparatus of claim 19, further comprising peeling means which abuts on said surface of said toner carrier at a peeling position which is on the upstream side to said restricting position in the rotation direction of said toner carrier, and accordingly peels off said toner adhering to said surface of said image carrier,

characterized in that with said toner carrier and said image carrier facing each other at said -opposed position, said peeling position is above said restricting position.